

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

## 125 Years Of Dedicated Service by Ontario FireRangers

In 1885, Ontario established a team of dedicated forest firefighters ready to serve and protect people, their property and the province's forests from fire. This group, which started with 37 trained professionals, has grown to more than 750 FireRangers serving at over 30 locations across Ontario. 2010 marks their 125<sup>th</sup> year of service.

FireRangers respond to about 2,000 calls on average each year. Some years are more demanding than others – 3,400 incidents were reported in 2006.

Throughout their 125 years of service, Ontario FireRangers have battled many different sizes of forest fires and intensities in a variety of different ground and weather conditions. In addition to experience gained in various parts of Ontario, FireRangers have also served in other Canadian provinces and territories, as well as parts of the United States.



Mutual support arrangements across the country and with the United States mean Ontario FireRangers can be called into action to assist in other jurisdictions. As an example, the 2009 fire season in British Columbia was the most challenging on record. Ontario FireRangers helped to battle more than 3,000 fires, including 200 that directly threatened communities.

Ontario's contribution included transporting 17,000 pieces of forest firefighting equipment, hundreds of fire staff and two CL415 heavy water bombers to British Columbia. Ontario FireRangers received British Columbia's 'Heroes and Rescue Award' that "recognizes courageous action in a time of crisis."

The services provided by Ontario FireRangers ensure that our forests, as well as people and property are protected for generations to come.



Fire management staff at a Port Arthur (Thunder Bay) 'Ontario Forestry Branch' office location in 1927.

For current Ontario forest fire situation, visit [ontario.ca/forestfire](http://ontario.ca/forestfire)